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BREEZE HILL NEWS

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~ ~ ~ *When Winter Comes to the Garden* ~ ~ ~

BREEZE HILL NEWS / / / /

BREEZE HILL NEWS is sent without cost and without obligation to those in the horticultural trade who find it useful.

It is published approximately six times a year in the interest of the J. HORACE MCFARLAND COMPANY and the MCFARLAND PUBLICITY SERVICE, at the Mount Pleasant Press, in Harrisburg, Pa.

The purpose of BREEZE HILL NEWS is to demonstrate how its publishers are prepared to serve the horticultural trade by growing, testing, blooming, photographing, and faithfully recording a large and changing succession of roses, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees at Breeze Hill Gardens. Those records, those pictures, and the suggestive knowledge upon which recommendations can be made, are put back of the horticultural selling service of the Mount Pleasant Press by intelligent writing, illustrating, and printing, both in black and in color.

QUESTIONS about plants, pictures, sales promotion, and printing are cheerfully answered without obligation on either side. Visitors are welcomed at the Mount Pleasant Press in Harrisburg (at the corner of Mulberry and Crescent streets, ten minutes' walk from the Pennsylvania Railroad station) and at Breeze Hill Gardens (2101 Bellevue Road, Harrisburg). Contact is maintained at the Mount Pleasant Press with all the English-speaking garden world, and, to some extent, with garden lovers who use other languages.

On request to Box 687, Harrisburg, Pa., the current Breeze Hill Finding-List, which gives an idea of the scope of the plant-trials undertaken at any particular time, will be provided.



THE SPRING TULIP DISPLAY AT BREEZE HILL

FOR many years, direct relations with some of the more important Holland tulip producers have brought to Breeze Hill new varieties in advance of their commercial practicability. Thus, in connection with the Van Leeuwen firm, we were among the first in America to plant the so-called bunch-flowered tulips, which, save for one or two varieties, later proved to be undependable because they reverted. We had, too, a few of that first definitely white Darwin Helene Eaking, which has assumed a definite place as of real value.

For 1936 there will be a remarkable display. Certain of the more important Holland men, working through Mr. George van der Mey, who has visited Breeze Hill and knows what we are trying to do in blooming, photographing, and color-recording, have provided us with 278 varieties of tulips in ten classes. It has been the thought that we all know plenty about varieties in beds and masses, but almost nothing about varieties in incidental planting, such as will show adaptability or otherwise to shrubbery borders, herbaceous beds, half shade, and the like. The 1936 display, therefore, a considerable portion of which is not in the open public space of the garden, ought to give us a good idea of color effects and contiguities. There are among the varieties some that are yet so new that we will need to send back the bulbs after they have bloomed for us. A visit to Breeze Hill in 1936 tulip-time will surely be pleasing to interested amateurs, and ought to be helpful to tradesmen who are looking ahead. Any sincere visitors, who will so request, will be given access to these tulips that are not in the public borders.—J. H. McF.

PAPAVER SCHINZIANUM

THE last time we checked over the Breeze Hill Rock-Garden, on November 25, plants of this splendid poppy were covered with buds and open flowers, and as they had been in that condition more or less all the time since last May, we feel safe in suggesting that it is a valuable plant.

It was introduced a few years ago by the Special Plant Introduction Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, being grown by them from seed presented by the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

The data supplied by the S. P. I. authority was "A perennial Poppy, said to be a hybrid of *P. rupifragum* and a species allied to *P. lateritum*, resembling the first species in flower. Plants flowering at Washington, D. C., have been of an orange-apricot hue, but some variation may be expected."

Our plants are from seed, and the flowers have all been true orange-apricot, four-petaled, some two and a half inches across. Both in plant and flower it is much like an Iceland poppy, but, unlike *P. nudicaule*, seems to be a true perennial. The plants proved perfectly hardy last winter, coming through without any loss. The color is one which needs to be used carefully, but plants which bloom for six months or more in Pennsylvania are not too plentiful, and we are grateful for them in any color.—R. M. H.

We learn with regret of the death at Oxford, England, on January 23, of Dame Clara Butt, noted British contralto. Although comparatively few people had the pleasure of hearing her sing, her name has been familiar to millions through the lovely tulip which bears her name.—R. M. H.



PAPAVER SCHINZIANUM

JAN. - FEB., 1936

MIDWINTER MEMORIES

IN THESE midwinter days the flower beauty of Breeze Hill is a memory rather than an actuality, though no day is without its own charm. Yet, in 1935, there were days of snow and deep frost during which full appreciation could be had of the four or five berried holly plants in the Center Garden. These grow near a fine young specimen of *Magnolia grandiflora*, the broad-leaved "bull bay" of the South, which has stayed with us through several hard winters, though sometimes losing its leaves. After the freeze of 1933-34, and after the new crop of leaves came, it bloomed sparingly, but in the summer of 1935, following a slight change of leaves, it bloomed abundantly, and the flowers were of superb size and quality. They were followed by attractive and unique seed-pods.

Not very far away is a circular hedge of *Berberis verruculosa*, that delightful and yet almost unknown prickly-leaved barberry which only gets richer as the frost becomes stronger.

But looking back to the blooming-time, we have in memory the All-America Seed Trials, which gave American gardens one Gold Medal petunia, Flaming Velvet, and several certificate winners among the other annuals. Dixie Sunshine marigold was coddled by protection until well after the first frosts, and seems to need another month of sun to bloom easily in the garden. It was, however, very well worth while when flowers opened before the frost got them.



AMERICAN HOLLY



BERBERIS VERRUCULOSA



MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA

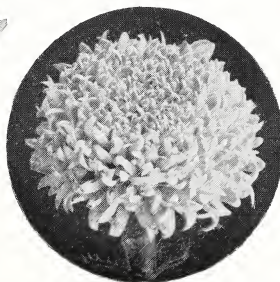
Rose trials were, as usual, of great interest. Among the many new varieties perhaps the outstanding one was McGredy's Triumph (elsewhere referred to), which produced, from quite indifferent plants received in spring, a succession of magnificent large pink-crimson flowers on a plant of such vigor as may be properly compared only with Radiance.

But in 1935 much was learned at Breeze Hill as to the relation of plant and understock—where both were grown, and the time of planting as related to general garden satisfaction. The trials were unpleasantly successful, because they showed that the rose is the most enduring, long-suffering of garden flowers, while making it plain that some rose merchants have been taking too many chances with rose vitality. The main garden display, newly planted in 1935, and every plant placed by the loving hands of the late Mr. Stevens, was selected to cover a wide range. There were plants grown in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, California, and Texas; some were on Multiflora, some on Ragged Robin. The beds included groups of twenty or thirty of a kind, and each was legibly labeled, not only as to its name but its origin, understock, and time of planting.

For 1936 certain of these group beds in the West Garden have been entirely replanted, and the whole scheme has been replanned. Again attention has been paid to understock, origin, and all the other items which will tend to establish responsibility as to the success or non-success of the variety in question.—J. H. McF.



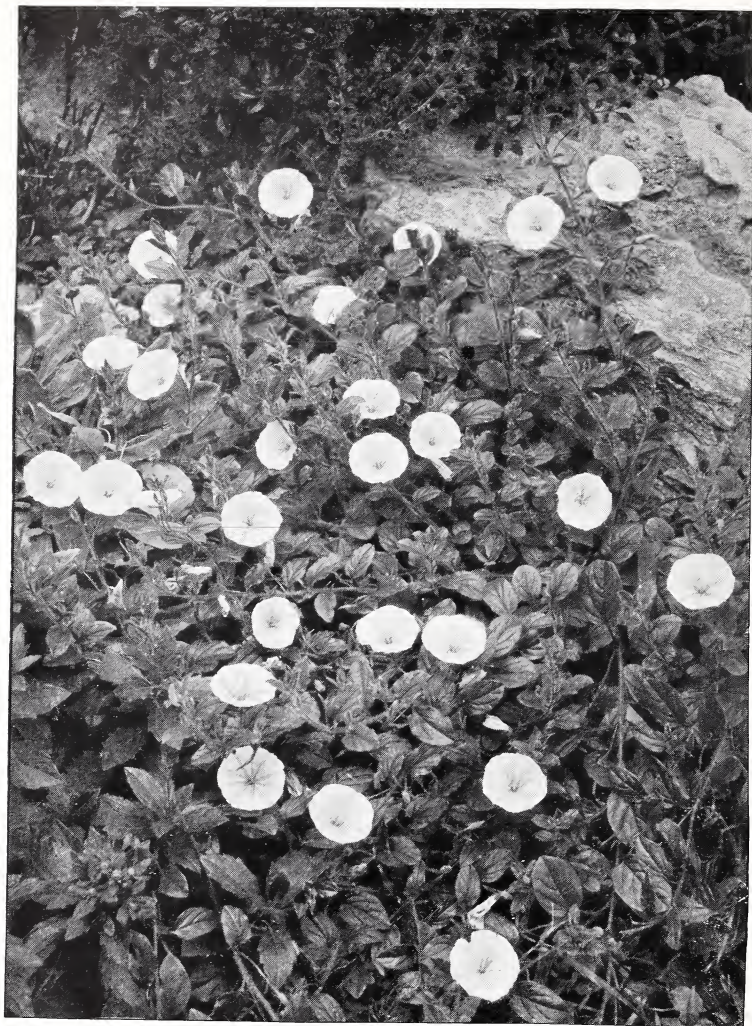
PETUNIA, FLAMING VELVET



MARIGOLD, DIXIE SUNSHINE



McGREDY'S TRIUMPH



CONVOLVULUS MAURITANICUS

CONVOLVULUS MAURITANICUS

THIS lovely little African bindweed came to Breeze Hill from San Diego, where it covers the parking strips on some streets. We find that visitors like it about as well as we do ourselves.

Unlike so many of the convolvulus family, *C. mauritanicus* is well behaved, and does not try to run all over the universe. Our plants rarely spread over a square yard, and can be kept in a much smaller space with little effort.

The plant itself is attractive, with its dark green, kidney-shaped foliage, and produces, all summer and well into the fall, its morning-glory flowers of an entrancing shade of violet-blue.

It can be used in many places, scattered through the border, in the rock-garden, or at the top of a wall or bank where it can hang over it is especially effective. As a pot-plant or for a window-box it has few equals.

A tender perennial, probably not reliably hardy north of Washington, it is so nice and so easy to propagate that more nurserymen should offer it with their spring bedding plants.

We pot a couple of plants in October and carry them in the greenhouse; cuttings are made during the winter, and by spring we have dozens of plants to set out.—R. M. H.

MARIGOLD, DIXIE SUNSHINE

If started early enough, this splendid novelty will be found to be a fine addition to our list of annuals. It requires a longer growing season than other Marigolds and should be started under glass.

With a Lombardy poplar form of growth, each ascending lateral carries its quota of flowers, which are round heads made up of hundreds of small five-petaled blooms.—R. M. H.

ABELIA GRANDIFLORA

THERE are a number of hedges at Breeze Hill, hedges tall and hedges small, from the stately row of trimmed Canada hemlocks near the lily-pool, to the tiny hedge of *Teucrium chamædrys* along one side of the Rock-Garden. They are all good; some are extra good.

Last month we pictured and described *Berberis verruculosa*, one of the loveliest of all, and from the comments heard and letters received about that plant, from both nurserymen and amateurs, we feel sure that gardeners do not realize the hedge possibilities of any number of plants easily procurable in American commerce.

Extending from near the greenhouse to the south entrance of the center garden is a little hedge of *Abelia grandiflora*, which is a delightful thing twelve months in the year. It was set out just a few years ago from plants we made from cuttings. The plants were set about 15 inches apart and are allowed to make enough growth every year so that there will be a show of their dainty pink and white blossoms for several weeks; then in the fall they are trimmed back to six inches, in which neat condition they remain until new growth starts the following spring.

While the little bell-shaped flowers are daintily beautiful in their delicate tints, we are especially delighted with the lovely foliage. The small ovate leaflets are as glossy as if varnished, and so close on the branches that the wood is scarcely visible. The summer color of the foliage is a lustrous dark green above and pale olive beneath, but when cold weather comes the foliage gradually takes on a beautiful shade of bronze. At this stage, when part of the foliage is glossy green and the rest lustrous bronze, the plants are indeed handsome.

In the South this abelia is evergreen, and is considered one of the finest evergreen shrubs, but in this section it is deciduous, but holds its foliage so late in the winter that it comes pretty close to being an evergreen.

Although considered tender in this section, it freezes back but little, and as it is a quick grower and blooms on new wood, a severe winter does no permanent harm. As a specimen shrub, *Abelia grandiflora* is one of the best we know. In Pennsylvania it makes a shapely plant 4 to 5 feet tall and nearly as much through, a thing of grace and beauty at all times.

Easy to grow in any kind of soil, in sun or shade, thriving when let alone or pruned hard, it has been inexcusably neglected by both nurserymen and gardeners.

There are several other abelias in California, of which the hardiness at Breeze Hill will be tested in 1936.—R. M. H.



OUR front and back covers are January and October pictures taken of a section of the same plant, a magnificent specimen of the upright form of *Taxus cuspidata*.

In the January picture the ice-formation is so distinct that the tree has the appearance of being covered with flowers, while the October picture shows the tree with a fine crop of berries.

Yew berries are wonderfully decorative. The small seed is surrounded by a scarlet, pulpy, slightly flattened globe, open at the apex; the fruit is about three-eighths of an inch in diameter and remains on the tree, retaining its brilliant scarlet coloring for several weeks.

The Japanese yew is one of our most obliging evergreens, growing well in almost any soil, and is one of the few evergreens thriving on the north side of a building.

Lovely at all times, with healthy foliage, light green when new, almost black-green when mature, and when decorated with its scarlet jewels is in a class by itself.—R. M. H.

